

We claim:

1. A method comprising:

    sending a relay message including an embedded message for conveying a switch in radio technology configuration from a first radio technology to a second radio technology.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the embedded message is a message pursuant to the second radio technology.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    receiving, at a first network controller operating according to the first radio technology, a message relay request from a mobile station for which the network controller is handling a packet switched call, the message relay request including an origination message for originating a call at a second network controller operating according to a second radio technology; and

    forming the relay message to include the origination message as the embedded message.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the message relay request includes an identifier identifying the message relay request as a message relay request.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the forming step further includes in the relay message an identifier of a packet data serving node handling the packet switched call of the mobile station.

6. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

receiving a relay message including a channel assignment message, the channel assignment message indicating a channel assigned to the mobile station for communicating with the second network controller; and

sending a message relay response to the mobile station that includes the channel assignment message.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the embedded message is a handoff request requesting handoff of the mobile station to the second radio technology.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the embedded message is a transition message requesting transition of a packet switched call for a mobile station handled by the first radio technology to a call for the mobile station handled by the second radio technology.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the transition message requests transition of the packet switched call for the mobile station handled by the first radio technology to a packet switched call for the mobile station handled by the second radio technology.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the transition message requests transition of the packet switched call for the mobile station handled by the first radio technology to a circuit switched call for the mobile station handled by the second radio technology.

11. A method, comprising:

receiving a relay message from a first network controller operating according to a first radio technology at a second network controller operating according to a different, second radio technology,

the relay message including a transition message indicating to transition a packet switched call for a mobile station handled by the first network controller to a call for the mobile station handled by the second network controller.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the transition message is an origination message for originating a call with the second network controller.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the relay message further includes an identifier of a packet data serving node handling the packet switched call of the mobile station.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
establishing a signaling relationship with the identified packet data serving node such that the second network controller receives packetized traffic destined for the mobile station.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the transition message is a handoff request requesting handoff of the mobile station to the second network controller.

16. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

    sending a relay message including a channel assignment message to the first network controller, the channel assignment message indicating a channel assigned to the mobile station for communicating with the second network controller.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein the transition message is for transitioning a packet switched call handled by the first network controller to a packet switched call handled by the second network controller.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein the transition message is for transitioning a packet switched call handled by the first network controller to a circuit switched call handled by the second network controller.

19. A method of communication between wireless elements and a wireless unit, the method comprising:

sending at least one message identifying at least one network type of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit and which wireless element is in use by the wireless unit; and

receiving a selection of at least one wireless element from the wireless unit.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the message includes at least one of an identifier of a network type of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit, an available wireless element for each of the at least one other network types, and an indicator of whether the wireless element in use by the wireless unit can relay messages to the selected wireless element.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the message includes network configuration parameters to identify the at least one network type of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the message identifies the at least one network type of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein the message includes parameters with which the wireless unit may select one of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit.

24. The method of claim 19, whereupon selection of one of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit by the wireless unit, the wireless unit communicates with the current wireless element its choice of the selected wireless element to subsequently relay messages.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the current wireless element relays messages to and/or from the selected wireless element from the mobile station.

26. The method of claim 19, whereupon selection of one of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit by the wireless unit and confirmation by the current wireless element, the current wireless element relays messages to and/or from the selected wireless element from and/or to the mobile station.

27. The method of claim 19, wherein the message identifying the selected wireless element indicates that all subsequent messages to and/or from the wireless unit are to be relayed by the current wireless element.

28. The method of claim 19, wherein each message to be relayed to and/or from the wireless unit by the current wireless element identifies the selected wireless element to which the message is to be relayed.

29. A method of communication between wireless elements and a wireless unit, the method comprising:

receiving at least one message identifying at least one network type of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit and which wireless element is in use by the wireless unit; and

selecting at least one wireless element for possible future service based on the message.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the message includes at least one of an identifier of a network type of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit, an available wireless element for each of the at

least one other network types, and an indicator of whether the wireless element in use by the wireless unit can relay messages to the selected wireless element.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the message includes network configuration parameters to identify the at least one network type of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein the message identifies the at least one network type of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein the message includes parameters with which the wireless unit may select one of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit.

34. The method of claim 29, wherein the wireless unit selects one of the wireless elements for service based on the message and a preferred roaming list.

35. The method of claim 29, whereupon selection of one of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit by the wireless unit, the wireless unit communicates with the current wireless element its choice of the selected wireless element to subsequently relay messages.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the current wireless element relays messages to and/or from the selected wireless element from the mobile station.

37. The method of claim 29, whereupon selection of one of the wireless elements available to the wireless unit by the wireless unit and confirmation by the current wireless element, the current wireless element relays messages to and/or from the selected wireless element from and/or to the mobile station.

38. The method of claim 29, wherein the message identifying the selected wireless element indicates that all subsequent messages to and/or from the wireless unit are to be relayed by the current wireless element.

39. The method of claim 29, wherein each message to be relayed to and/or from the wireless unit by the current wireless element identifies the selected wireless element to which the message is to be relayed.

40. The method of claim 29, further comprising:

prior to selecting, requesting additional information on the wireless elements available to the wireless unit from the current wireless element.